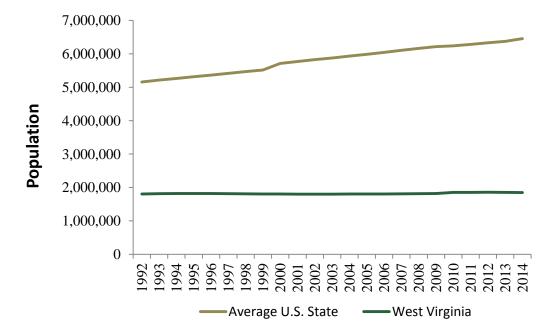


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Since many of the following performance measure calculations rely on annual population estimates, Figure 1 depicts population trends for both West Virginia and the average U.S. state.

Figure 1: Population Size in West Virginia and the Average U.S. State, 1992-2014



Sources: Annual U.S. Census Population Estimates

Findings: West Virginia has had a small but significant growth in population from 1992 to 2014. On average, the West Virginia population increased by 1,743 persons per year, resulting in one-tenth of a percent per year. This rate is substantially less than the average U.S. state where the average population grew by 60,819 persons per year or 1.2%, between 1992 and 2014. As a result, the average U.S. state population is growing at a rate nearly 12 times greater than West Virginia's population.